

**Washington, D.C.** - Today, Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) stood with fellow members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), joined by members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), to express opposition to the ill-conceived Arizona bill - SB 1070 - and to call on congressional leaders and the Administration to pass meaningful comprehensive immigration reform. On April 23, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed SB 1070, a bill that would require police officers to stop and interrogate any individual if "reasonable suspicion" exists that the person is in the country illegally.

"I can't understand why some Arizona elected officials would require the police to stop, question, and demand documentation of every Latino in the state. This is a law whereby one-fifth of all U.S. citizens or legal residents residing in Arizona would fall under a veil of suspicion solely because of their ethnicity," said Congressman Gonzalez. "This law does not provide law enforcement with any new tools to combat crime but instead undermines community trust and cooperation to solve crimes and deter true criminal behavior."

Members present at today's press conference agreed that our nation's current immigration system is broken and that only true sensible reform can address the security concerns of border states such as Arizona.

"A comprehensive immigration reform solution is needed to secure our borders, reign in unscrupulous employers who exploit immigrant labor, and provide a path to legalization for those undocumented residents who pass criminal background checks, learn English, and pay fines and back taxes," added Gonzalez. "Given what has occurred in Arizona, Congress and the Administration should act quickly to enact a bipartisan solution."

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